



# ARTICLE ROUND UP



The American Center Ho Chi Minh City is pleased to offer you **Article Round Up**, a monthly current events publication of the American Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It offers abstracts of approximately 25 current articles and policy briefs from leading American journals. The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

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## JANUARY 2013

### SPOTLIGHT: US. SOCIETY AND VALUES

#### 1. "'A' Is for ...."

Goldstein, Evan R. *Chronicle of Higher Education*; 12/21/2012, Vol. 59 Issue 17, 1 page.

The article focuses on the idea of what constitutes an a##hole and why American culture is saturated with individuals who are self-absorbed, entitled, and narcissistic. The author discusses the books "A##holes: A Theory," by Aaron James and "Ascent of the A-Word: A##holism, the First Sixty Years," by Geoffrey Nunberg. He explores the psychology of a##holes, analyzes the relationship between capitalism and the development of a##holes in the U.S., and explains how a##holes have impacted popular culture.

#### 2. "From the Campaign to the Capitol"

Wood, Natalie. *State Legislatures*. Dec 2012, 3 pages.

Staff in Colorado's Office of Legislative Legal Services, for example, are not permitted to fundraise for candidates, make contributions to partisan candidates or political parties, endorse or oppose partisan candidates in any way, be active in a political party or run for partisan office. According to Pat Fuller, the current chief clerk of the Wisconsin Assembly, a scandal a decade ago prompted the Legislature to put "everything in black and white" to protect the institution, the members and the staff. According to Jones: "Campaigns involve selling ideas, dealing with the press, organizing and managing staff, and interacting with established party organizations."

#### 3. "50 Slices of America"

John Barry. *American Theatre*. Dec. 2012, 3 pages.

What's your America? On Nov. 6, after two years and billions of political ad dollars, American voters were given two possible answers to that question: Romney or Obama. On the same day, out of the spotlight, in Baltimore, Md., the six-week rollout of CENTERSTAGE's My America project--filmed monologues from 50 playwrights attempting to answer that same question--concluded, with its fruits posted at [www.myamerica.centerstage.org](http://www.myamerica.centerstage.org). This gallery of opinion may not be an antidote to a country split across the middle, but it does give online audiences a peek into the theatrical blue notes of a country that is more diverse and fascinating than the 24-hour news cycle may indicate.

### THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

#### 4. "A 51st U.S. State? It Could Happen"

Stephen Kaufman. *IIP Digital Article*, 28 December 2012, 2 pages.

For more than half a century, the U.S. flag has had 50 stars representing the 50 U.S. states. A recent referendum in Puerto Rico shows residents in that U.S. territory are dissatisfied with their island's political status quo, with many expressing interest in becoming the 51st state. If Puerto Ricans decide to pursue statehood, they will follow a tradition established in the early days of the republic. Read more at:

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2012/12/20121228140484.html?CP.rss=true#ixzz2Gc7R97D8>

#### 5. "Tracking Congress 2.0."

[Peggy Garvin](#). *Searcher*, October 2012, 4 pages.

The author explores useful web sites for tracking U.S. congressional activities and following federal legislators and legislation, including the public legislative information service maintained for Congress by the Library of Congress, OpenCongress, and Sunlight Foundation's Scout project.

#### 6. "A New Era for U.S. Security Assistance"

[Andrew J. Shapiro](#). *The Washington Quarterly*, Autumn 2012, 13 pages.

Shapiro, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, examines U.S. security cooperation as a means of building alliances through security assistance, noting that underestimating its strategic importance could limit the United States and risk global stability in the years ahead.

#### 7. "America on Defense"

[Victor Davis Hanson](#). *Commentary*, October 2012, 6 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, examines U.S. defense policy and how reducing the defense budget impacts the country's ability to maintain an orderly international system and provide support in areas of political interest.

#### 8. "Reducing the Global Nuclear Risk"

[Sidney D. Drell](#), et al. *Policy Review*, October/November 2012, 8 pages.

The authors discuss global nuclear enterprises, focusing on the danger to human life posed by nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants; and provide suggestions for nuclear risk management and nuclear threat reduction.

### ECONOMICS AND TRADE

#### 9. "Broken BRICS: Why the Rest Stopped Rising"

[Ruchir Sharma](#). *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2012, 6 pages.

The author, head of Emerging Markets and Global Macro at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, examines global economic relations and the large emerging-market economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, commonly referred to as the BRICs, with a focus on convergence between the BRICs and the United States and other developed countries.

#### 10. "Overlooked Opportunity: Tradable Business Services, Developing Asia, and Growth"

[J. Bradford Jensen](#). *PIIE Working Paper 12-23*, November 2012, 34 pages.

Is developing Asia overlooking an opportunity for increased growth and development through trade in business services? The author, a professor of economics and international business at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, analyzes how the region would benefit from liberalizing services trade as it has benefited from liberalizing goods trade.

#### 11. "The Dollar and US Power"

[John Williamson](#). Peterson Institute for International Economics, October 2, 2012, 8 pages.

If there is no plausible competitor to the dollar among national currencies, what about the international level? Is there any prospect of an international currency becoming a threat to U.S. dominance? The author, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, examines the future of U.S. dollar, its role, and the U.S. power in the world economy.

## **12. "Uncertainty and the Economy"**

[Scott R. Baker](#), et al. *Policy Review*, October/November 2012, 11 pages.

Which aspects of policy are the most important sources of U.S. economic policy uncertainty? The authors analyze the connection between economic uncertainty and U.S. policy in the last four years and investigate whether economic policy uncertainty causes the decline in employment and investment.

## **ASIA**

## **13. "ASEAN's Future and Asian Integration"**

[Joshua Kurlantzick](#). *CFR Working Paper*, November 2012, 25 pages.

The author, CFR Fellow for Southeast Asia, analyzes the major obstacles facing ASEAN today and offers recommendations for both the United States and ASEAN that will enable ASEAN to firmly establish itself as the essential regional organization in Asia.

## **14. "The Problem with the Pivot"**

[Robert S. Ross](#). *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2012, 13 pages.

The author, Professor of Political Science at Boston College, analyzes the policy of U.S. President Barack Obama on a "pivot" toward Asia, a shift in strategy aimed at bolstering the United States' defense ties with countries throughout the region and expanding the U.S. naval presence there, and its effectiveness in protecting U.S. interests in the region.

## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL POPULATION**

## **15. "Diversity, Discovery, and a Ticking Clock"**

[Rick Docksai](#). *The Futurist*, September/October 2012, 3 pages.

The author explores biodiversity crisis and how the human impact on wildlife habitats could result in the extinction of various animal and plant species before they are discovered by taxonomists. Tools for discovering and classifying species in the digital era are also discussed.

## **16. "Ecosystems on the Brink"**

[Carl Zimmer](#). *Scientific America*, October 2012, 6 pages.

The author discusses the ecological dynamics of food webs and the use of mathematical modeling in ecological analysis, focusing on how mathematical models can reveal connections in complicated food webs and even predict food web flippings and collapses.

## **17. "Surge of the Cities"**

[Linda Marsa](#). *Discover*, October 2012, 2 pages.

The author looks at the boons and banes of the population shift in impoverished regions from rural areas to cities, which has been going on unabated for decades and has great impacts on everything from economy to environment to healthcare.

## **18. "Woe is Tweek"**

[Laura Bennett](#). *The New Republic*, October 25, 2012, 4 pages.

The author, a staff writer at *The New Republic*, examines the relationship between the millennial

generation and the baby boomer generation, focusing on popular culture related to millennials and the poverty and unemployment that many twentysomethings, including young families, are now facing.

### **19. "Who Is Greener? Climate Action and Political Regimes: Trade-Offs for National and International Actors"**

[Marianne Kneuer](#). *Democratization*, October 2012, 24 pages.

Do different regime types show different degrees of disposition to reduce carbon emissions? The author compares the performance between democracies and autocracies in the context of climate change, focusing on the implications of climate change for actors on the national level and for democracy promoters on the international level.

## **JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **20. "The Video Stream Rises"**

[Richard Oppenheim](#). *Searcher*, October 2012, 4 pages.

With many service delivery providers are now expanding their content and channels include YouTube, Dish Network and Comcast, the author, CPA Oppenheim Group, examines the growth of video streaming technology, the companies leading the change, and what streaming means to the industry and the consumer.

### **21. "Prisoners of Cable"**

[Derek Thompson](#). *The Atlantic*, November 2012, 3 pages.

The author, a senior editor at *The Atlantic*, discusses the cable television industry and cable television networks, focusing on the ways in which technology companies such as Microsoft and Google may change the cable television industry.

### **22. "Mistaken Nation"**

Paul Farhi. *American Journalism Review*, Winter 2012, 6 pages.

With the relentless pressure to move quickly in the era of the Twitter-fueled 24/7 news cycle, it's probably not surprising that there are so many high-profile journalism errors. The author discusses mistakes in journalism and reporting errors by journalists including misspellings, misleading or distorted quotes and omission of information.

## **EDUCATION**

### **23. "A qualitative examination of social interaction during cooperative computer activities"**

Chen Hsu and Eugene A. Geist. *Education*, Winter 2012, 9 pages.

This article reports the findings of a study to examine the practicality and efficacy of using tablet computers in the Higher Education classroom. Students in a senior level teacher preparation class were provided with Apple iPads for 10 weeks to aid in their studies. The iPads were preloaded with selected software but students were encouraged to use them in the way that felt the most natural and beneficial to them. Results indicated that students thought that the device was most beneficial as an e-reader and a way to have instant access to information while the instructor was lecturing. They also found it to be beneficial in their clinical work in elementary school classrooms.

### **24. "Literacy 2.0"**

Joyce Riha Linik. *Education Digest*, November 2012, 5 pages.

The author discusses how literacy is changing in the digital age and the growing influence of technology and its use in teaching students, focusing on methods for teaching students' literacy skills

such as reading and writing and the integration of technology into literacy instruction.

## **LIBRARY TRENDS**

### **25. "How to Ensure Our Library Systems are Horse-High, Bull-Strong, and Pig-Tight"**

[Janetta Waterhouse](#). *Computers in Libraries*, October 2012, 5 pages.

The author, Director Library Information Systems and Technical Services at the University of Illinois, offers tips to libraries on improving their discovery system to meet the needs of all types of users efficiently.

### **26. "Libraries Harness the Power of Streaming Media"**

James Careless. *Searcher*, November 2012, 5 pages.

The author explores streaming media as a means of transmitting audio and video to viewers across the Internet and its benefits to libraries, and discusses strategies for libraries in doing streaming content.